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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 72123

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : SPRATTE et al.
PCT No. : PCT/DE2004/001855
Confirm. No. : N/A
Filed : February 16, 2006
For : BALL AND SOCKET...
Art Unit : N/A
Examiner : N/A
Dated : February 16, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider references which have come to Applicant's attention including references which have come to Applicant's attention from the corresponding German Examination Procedure as well as references cited in the International Search Report.

- DE 101 34 259 is discussed in the introductory portion of the application. Applicant further attaches an English language abstract and notes that corresponding U.S. text are U.S. 6,879,240 and U.S. 2004/100357, both listed on the attached PTO-1449 form.

- EP 0 617 260 is discussed in the introductory portion of the application. Applicant further attaches an English language abstract. The reference is also cited in the International Search Report under Category A with the abstract and Fig. 1 indicated to be relevant to International claims 1 - 10.

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- DE 101 10 738 has been cited in the German Examination Proceeding as well as the International Search Report. In the International Search Report the reference is cited under Category X with regard to INTERNATIONAL claims 1 - 3 and 6 - 10 and under Category A (technological background) as to International claims 4 and 5. Paragraphs 0014, 0040 to 0056 as well as the abstract and Figs. 1 and 2 are indicated to be relevant. No full translation of this reference is available to Applicant at this time, however, Applicant attaches an English language abstract.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: 

John James McGlew
Registration No. 31,903
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:tf

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Enclosed: PTO-1449 Form
International Search Report
copies of (3) References

DATED: February 16, 2006
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, NO.: EV435294014US

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BY: Tonyann Tonle DATE: February 16, 2006

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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce Sheet 1 of 1
Patent and Trademark OfficeLIST OF REFERENCES CITED
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)Atty Docket No.: 72123
PCT No.: PCT/DE2004/001855
Applicant: SPRATTE et al.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ex- aminer Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub- class	Filing Date
	<u>6,879,240</u>	<u>April 12, 2005</u>	<u>Kruse</u>			<u>June 19, 2002</u>
	<u>2004/0100357</u>	<u>May 27, 2004</u>	<u>Kruse</u>			<u>June 19, 2002</u>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ex- aminer Initial	Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Sub- class	Translation Yes/No
	<u>DE 101 34 259</u>	<u>Feb. 6, 2003</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>
	<u>EP 0 617 260</u>	<u>Sept. 28, 1994</u>	<u>Europe</u>			<u>No</u>
	<u>DE 101 10 738</u>	<u>Nov. 7, 2002</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Ex- aminer Initial	Author	Date	Title	Textbook in	Translation Yes/No

/Bot Ledynh/

03/03/2008

Examiner

Date Considered

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /BL/